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Rep. Luján Speaks at Latino State of the Union Conference

Luján Addresses Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Priorities for the Hispanic Community

Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján joined several distinguished Hispanic leaders at the 2009 Latino State of the Union: The Second Annual Roundtable on Law, Policy and Civil Rights where he discussed Hispanic priorities under the Obama Administration. Rep. Luján addressed renewable energy priorities and the importance of the Hispanic community's continued participation in these policy discussions.

"There is change coming to Washington and that change is perhaps most apparent in our new focus on a clean energy economy," said Luján. "Hispanics can benefit greatly from these new investments, and we must make sure that our community is part of the conversation. I look forward to working with the new administration and my colleagues in Congress to advance new clean energy policies and to advocate for Hispanic inclusion in these plans."

Rep. Luján focused his speech on renewable energy and building a clean energy economy. Rep. Luján is a former Chairman of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, where he made great strides in renewable energy development and energy efficiency in New Mexico.

"We need to expand and extend tax credits that encourage renewable energy production and stabilize the industry," said Luján. "This aggressive investment in wind, solar, and biofuels - will create millions of new clean energy jobs in the United States and help build a new trillion dollar economy. We need to modernize our energy grid to accommodate clean energy production, and we need heavy investment in research and development to make renewable energy easier to store and transport--so it can make its way to homes throughout the country."

Rep. Luján also addressed concerns specific to the Hispanic community.

"As you know, high gas prices, rising food and heating costs, clean air and water--these issues often disproportionately affect Hispanic families," said Luján. "If they cannot afford to get to work, if they live in environmentally neglected areas, if they are not able to get a job in a new, changing job market-- families suffer. We need energy solutions that focus on our communities - that reduce costs and create jobs. We cannot afford to be left out of the conversation."

The policy conference was hosted jointly by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). The purpose of the conference was to hear from policy makers and leaders in the Hispanic community on the critical issues expected to be addressed in the Obama Administration and the 111th Congress with the greatest impact on Hispanics.

Rep. Luján joined Rosa Rosales (President of LULAC), John Trasviña (President and General Counsel of MALDEF), and Simon Rosenberg (President of the New Democrat Network) to address various policy issues facing the incoming administration.

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